

NEWS RELEASE

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Conference Aims To Strengthen State-Wide HealthCare Emergency Preparedness

BISMARCK, N.D.— Enhancing the state's and local response teams' ability to respond to an array of natural and human-caused emergencies in North Dakota will be the goal of the North Dakota Department of Health's (NDDoH) "North Dakota HealthCare Emergency Preparedness Conference" this August.

The conference, hosted by the department's Emergency Preparedness and Response Section, will be held Aug. 21, 2014, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Radisson Hotel, 605 E. Broadway Ave. in Bismarck. There is no charge for the conference.

"This conference will provide a forum to discuss the current state of emergency preparedness in the state, and also help identify key resources and tools to enhance community response plans," said Mary Tello-Pool, director for the Division of Hospital Preparedness. "It will also advance the knowledge and skills of professionals by providing practical applications and lessons learned by conference presenters, and is designed to strengthen local partnerships."

Breakout sessions and three keynote presentations will address key areas of emergency preparedness and will offer practical lessons and applications for attendees. Keynote presentation topics include handling mass fatalities, transportation accidents and water contamination incidents.

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Keynote speakers include Dr. John Carson, presenting “Mass Fatality Operations,” Dr. Eric Emery, presenting “Transportation Disaster Victim Accounting,” and Melissa Kinnaird, Deputy Director for the West Virginia Bureau for Public Health’s Center for Threat Preparedness. Kinnaird will talk about lessons learned from a chemical spill in West Virginia that affected local drinking water for 300,000 people in her presentation “Water Contamination from Bad to Worse.”

Break sessions will include:

- “HC Standard” —Mark Goodell, VP Global Emergency Resources, will talk about the latest in Global’s Patient tracking program.
- “Casselton Derailment” —David Glatt, NDDoH’s Director of Environmental Health Division, will share his experiences and lessons learned from the recent railroad derailment and explosion in Casselton.
- “Trauma in Oil Country” —Dr. Randy Szlabik introduces some concerns and potential hazards in oil country with insight into how they can be managed.
- “Crisis Incident Management Teams” —Will Moorhead, Emergency Management Consultant with All Clear Emergency Management Group, shares tips on some of the challenges involved in selecting a team for crisis incident management and training.

Many of the attendees—such as nurses, social workers, EMS, and long-term care administrators— will be able to earn continuing education hours for attending breakout sessions.

Registration opens at 7:30 a.m. with breakfast. Lunch will also be provided.

For more information on the conference, call Doris Weiss, North Dakota Department of Health, at 701.328.9752 or visit ndhealth.gov/EPR/HP/hppconference.

-- 30 --

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